

## Spanish 457: Composition

In this class, you will have to write a composition in which you compare aspects of three different texts/movies (and two or more different writers) you read in this class this semester. Your grade will be based upon four criteria: thesis/argumentation, organization/coherence, cultural/textual understanding, and comprehensibility/accuracy.

### Steps:

1. Select a theme for your composition. Possible themes include: "Poverty in the Short Stories of Rulfo and García Márquez," "Animals in the Short Stories of Cortázar and Donoso," "The Dividing of the Subject in Borges and Cortázar," "The Role of the Woman in Borges, García Márquez, and Rulfo," "The Role of the Parent(s) in García Márquez and Rulfo," "Magical Realism in García Márquez and Cortázar," "Violence in García Márquez, Cortázar, and Rulfo," "Loneliness in Donoso and Cortázar," "Mental Illness in Borges, Donoso, and Cortázar," "Ghosts in Rulfo and Fuentes," "Death in García Márquez, Borges, and Rulfo," etc. You may also choose your own theme, but you must include in your composition an analysis of three different short stories/movies from two or more writers.
2. Write your thesis. A thesis is a statement (or two) in which you present your interpretation of the theme. A good thesis must be interesting, logical, and concise, and it must present an argument. Your thesis statement should also give the reader a road map that illustrates what you intend to do in the composition, and how you plan to get there. The thesis must be presented during the introduction to the paper. Throughout the rest of the composition, you will persuade your reader, with textual evidence, that your understanding of the theme is correct. In your thesis statement, try to avoid phrases like "in my opinion," "I think," etc., because you should present yourself as an authority on the topic. (Anybody can have an opinion.)
3. Write an outline for your paper. Make sure to include an introduction, in which you present your thesis, and a conclusion, in which you summarize the main points of your argument in a different way. In what comes between the introduction and conclusion, you should present your ideas in a logical, easy-to-follow way. You must include textual evidence. In other words, don't just make empty statements. You need to support everything you say with direct citations from the text. You are also encouraged to include citations from other critics, whose work supports your thesis or whose work you refute.
4. Write a rough draft of the composition. On Friday, April 29, you will bring your rough draft to class, where your classmates will read it and give you feedback. Based on your classmates' recommendations, you will write your final draft of the composition and turn it in to your professor some time during the final week of class (5/2, 5/4, or 5/6).

Keep the following in mind when writing your composition:

1. It must be typed.
2. You must use 12 point and Times New Roman font.
3. Double space your lines
4. You must use margins of 1 inch on all sides of your paper
5. It is not necessary to write the date, the name of class, or your professor's name on the first page; your name and your title for the paper will be sufficient
6. You must write in Spanish
7. You must include a list of works cited
8. In order to get a "Thesis/Argumentation" score in the "Exceeds Expectations" range, you must include secondary sources, which are texts on the subject written by other critics.
9. Length: Although there is no minimum or maximum page length, you should plan on writing somewhere between 2.5 to 5 pages.